

VZCZCXYZ0001  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBH #0121 0572000  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 262000Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6150  
INFO RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0629  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 000121

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR AND WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BF](#)  
SUBJECT: CUBAN AMBASSADOR REMARKS ON CUBANS LIVING IN THE  
BAHAMAS

¶1. On February 26 local media published a statement made by Cuban Ambassador to The Bahamas, Jose Luis Ponce, on the first anniversary of the establishment of an association of Cubans living in The Bahamas called "Ismaelillos." Ponce attended the anniversary celebration on February 21 and noted that over 200 Cubans currently reside in The Bahamas and they "represent the diversity of our country and our culture." The Ismaelillo group was formed in January 2008 by Cubans wishing to honor the life of Cuban writer Jose Marti. Ponce highlighted Marti's dedication to preventing Cuba from "falling under the control of any country, including the United States." In addition, Ponce noted that all Cuban residents in The Bahamas and members of the Cuban Embassy pay tribute to the 50th anniversary "of the victory of the Revolution."

¶2. Ponce remarked on the history of travel between Cuba and The Bahamas and noted the diversity of Cubans currently living in The Bahamas, including doctors, nurses, teachers and technicians. Ponce ended his remarks by affirming the support of all Cubans living in The Bahamas to the Cuban cause.  
ZUNIGA-BROWN